

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are active in the present application. Claims 20-28 are new claims.

Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. Claims 3-7, 9 and 11-19 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment Filed on: 3-21-2002**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

- 3. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivatives according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein n is 1.
4. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein Ar¹ and Ar² are independently selected from the group comprising or consisting of phenyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, said residues being optionally substituted by at least one substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl, like trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆- thioalkoxy.

5. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein at least one of R³ and/or R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of the following natural amino acid residues : alanyl, arginyl, asparaginyl, aspartyl, cysteinyl, glu-taminyl, glutamyl, glycyl, histidyl, isoleucyl, leucyl, lysyl, methionyl, phenylalanyl, prolyl, seryl, threonyl, tryptophanyl, tyrosyl, valyl.

6. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein

Ar¹ is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, preferably 4-chlorophenyl, X is O, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, n is 1, Ar² is thienyl, R⁵ is H or C₁-C₆-alkyl; R⁶ is selected from the group comprising or consisting of H, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-aliphatic alkyl - e.g. a C₁-C₆-alkylamino aryl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino heteroaryl, a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic C₄-C₈-alkyl containing optionally 1-3 heteroatoms and being optionally fused with an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or heteroaryl; or R⁶ is an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or heteroaryl; said aryl or heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl, like trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, C₁-C₆-thio alkoxy; or R⁵ and R⁶ taken together could form an unsubstituted or substituted 4-8-membered saturated cyclic alkyl or heteroalkyl group, e.g. an unsubstituted or substituted piperidino group.

7. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein

R⁵ is H; and R⁶ is a C₁-C₆-alkyl which is substituted by an aryl, an heteroaryl group or an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, whereby said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl, like trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, C₁-C₆-thioalkoxy.

9. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 which is selected from the following group :

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[({3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl}amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-{[5-nitropyridin-2-yl}amino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-amino]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[({3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl}amino}ethyl)-amino}ethyl)amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[({5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl}amino}ethyl)-amino}ethyl)amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide

N-({5-[({2-[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}amino)-sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)-4-chlorobenzamide

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-oxo-2-{3-[({trifluoromethyl}sulfonyl)anilino}ethyl)amino]-sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide.

12. (Amended) Use according to claim 10 [or 11] for the treatment or prevention of disorders associated with abnormal expression or activity of JNK2 and/or 3.

13. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular [according to any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of neuronal disorders including epilepsy; Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease; retinal diseases, spinal cord injury, head trauma.

14. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular according to [any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of autoimmune diseases including Multiple Sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, septic shock, transplant rejection.

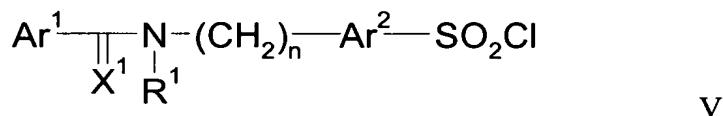
15. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular according to [any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of cancer including breast-, colorectal-, pancreatic cancer.

16. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular according to [any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases including stroke, arterosclerosis, myocardial infarction, myocardial reperfusion injury.

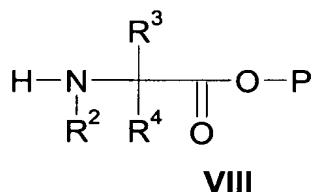
17. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient thereof.

18. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 comprising or consisting of the steps of:

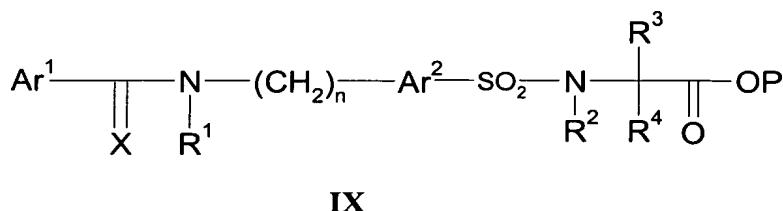
e) preparing a sulfonyl compound V,



f) reacting it with the protected amino acid compound VIII



thus leading to a compound

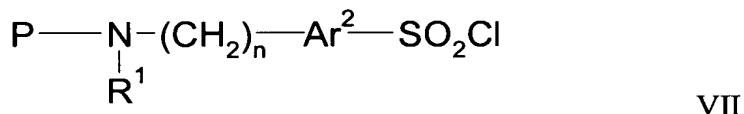


g) said compound IX is subjected to a deprotection and finally

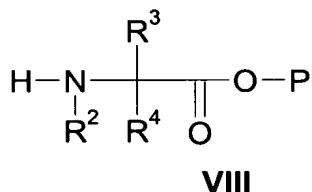
h) a coupling.

19. (Amended) Process for the preparation of the sulfonyl amino acid derivatives according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 comprising or consisting of the steps of:

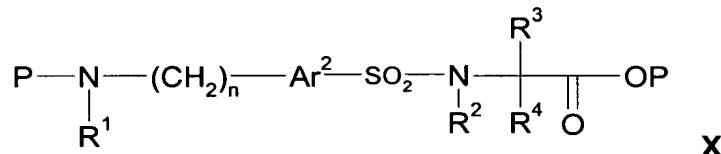
a) preparing a protected sulfonyl compound VII



b) reacting it with the protected amino acid compound VIII



thus leading to a compound



e) followed by deprotection;

f) coupling;

g) deprotection, and

h) acylation.--

Claims 20-28 (New).